

BINGO

October, 1958



Congratulations

By Western Union

To Mr. & Mrs. Bing Crosby August 11, 1958
Address 594 S. Mapleton Drive, Holmby Hills, Los Angeles, California

Congratulations. Thrilled and happy to hear the good news. May the newcomer be a pride and joy to you always.

Rena Albanesi and The Club Crosby Members

Congratulations

BINGANG

Vol. XII No. 3

October, 1958

CLUB CROSBY PRESENTATION

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Michael Holliday - singing star of Great Britain
Happi Hill - New Zealand disc jockey
Douglas Black - South Australia disc jockey
Gordon Wall - Victoria, Australia
Stan Gibson - New South Wales, Australia

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are once again with a new journal, thank you once for your nice letters, and your kind patience with me. This time we have a letter from both Bing and Larry. The snaps of Bing on the Alaska fishing trip, were sent to me by Larry. The snap of Bing and Bill Morrow, sent to me by Maurine Carter, and want to say thank you to them once again. The snap of Bing, Kathryn and Harry, Jr., came from the August 17th. issue of the New York Journal American.

Of course, the best news for this journal, is the birth of a baby boy to Bing and Kathryn, "Harry Lillis Crosby Jr.". The cover of the journal, shows you the telegram I sent in the club's name. I want to thank Mary Maloney, and Patricia McHale, for their articles on this very happy occasion.

Our next happy news, is of Bing signing a five-year contract for radio and television with the American Broadcasting Company. The first show will take place October 1st, you will probably have seen the show before you receive this journal.

Next, I want to thank the members for their "Bing's Birthday Fund" donation. We were only able to collect \$20.00, and I sent it along to St. John's Hospital, in Santa Monica. You will find a letter of thanks, sent to Larry by the Sisters of Charity at the hospital. I want to once again thank the following members for their donation:

Rose Beachnau
 Pearl Elliott
 Mary Hall
 Mary Landon
 Mary Maloney
 Lillian Potter
 Pat Sullivan
 Ruth Tobaben

Maurine Carter
 Christina Gibb
 Priscilla Koernig
 Mary Lavin
 Fred McBride
 Marcy Sands
 Serge Trepainer

Dorothy Casaletto
 Ann Heidelberger
 Judi Kirjavainen
 Mary T. Light
 Ruth Ness
 Elsie Schweer
 Florence VanBrock

It was suggested to me sometime ago, to have a page of birthdays, so that members, if they wish could send birthday cards to each other. If you are in favor of this, please let me know.

We are very happy to have some new Honoraries from Australia, Douglas Black, Gordon Wall, Stan Gibson, and want very much to welcome them once again. I also want to welcome Michael Holliday, who is a top singing star in Great Britian; and also a number one fan of Bing's.

Before I finish this article, I have to say, with the rise in the price of the postage, instead of raising the dues, I think it best when you renew your dues to send me \$1.25, plus 3 -6%. I hate to do this, but I think it better than raising the dues.

I am very happy to welcome to our club 10 new members, I hope they will enjoy their stay with us:

Minnie Levy
 Ann Schiano
 Val Kronke
 Dorothy McCartney

Mildred Jicha
 Ruth Blair
 Frances Cochrane

Ethel Werner
 Christine Psinas
 Geraldine Coluccini

I guess that's about all for now, please do go ahead and enjoy the journal, and let me know when you receive it. Thank you once again to all members who have contributed to this issue. I hope some day all of you will write something for us.

May 5, 1958



BING SAYS

Miss. Rena Albanesi, President
The Club Crosby
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

It was very nice of you and the club members to remember my birthday, and the check for the hospital will be greatly appreciated.

Trout season opened here last week, so I got a few.

It's possible we may do a picture in July - nothing set yet!

Best to all,

Bing Crosby

BC:vs

August 20, 1958

Miss. Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

Herewith are four photos of Bing and Harris on their trip for salmon off Alaska this summer. The fish shown are about 35 -45 pounds, but they get some up to 60.

They go north in a cruiser, then take small boats with an outboard motor and troll. Takes a good half hour to land a big one.

Bing is now considering format and talent for his fall TV show for Oldsmobile. I am trying to get a sponsor for our golf tournament TV in January.

Best to all,

Larry Crosby

LC;lm

The Sisters of Charity
Saint John's Hospital
Santa Monica, California

May 30, 1958

Mr. Larry Crosby
9028 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles 46, California

Dear Mr. Crosby:

I am sorry to be so late in acknowledging your letter enclosing a donation of \$20.00 from one of your brother's fan clubs in remembrance of his birthday. I was out of town and then Mother Mary Francesca died. A number of years ago she had been our Mother General and had been a patient here of recent months. By coincidence, Mother was in the room dedicated to the memory of your father.

We have placed the donation in our new Chapel Fund, as we did not know of a better way to remember Mr. Crosby. We hope some day to have a permanent Chapel, and we use such donations for this purpose.

The members of the Crosby family are remembered always in the grateful prayers of the Sisters at Saint John's.

It was very nice to hear from you, and thank you for your letter and the donation.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Mary David
Administrator

Priscilla Koernig writes - Just mention that Harold Sunners has quite a lot of Crosby material available (Kraft Music Hall Shows, Philco Radio Time, General Electric Time, movies, T.V. shows and quite a few movies) at a very reasonable price. These things are available on recording tape (\$5.00 for each tap at 7½ speed; or \$6.00 for each tape at 3-3/4 speed, which would include about 4 shows or one movie and something else). His recording are as good as the material from which he copies it. The best recordings that he has are the ones that are taken from the original Philco transcriptions; however, the ones taken from wire and disc recordings sound quite well, too. He has a complete Bing Crosby record collection. His address is Harold Sunners, Box 13, Brooklyn 4, New York

Quote, Unquote: at the Socialite Alfred Ducato's party in their Hillsborough home last weekend, Lloyd Downton remarked to Bing Crosby: "Y'know, I've got over 200 of your old 78 records-and I don't know what to do with 'em." "Well," sighed Bing with a touch of sadness, "if you're lucky, you could turn 'em all in on one Sinatra long-play!"
(San Francisco Chronicle) May 28, 1958

Bing, Kathryn and Harry Lillis Jr.
Leaving the Hospital

IT'S A BOY!

Mary Maloney

When Rena first asked me to write this article for BINGANG, I thought it would be easy. I must admit it is not as easy as I thought I want to get this off to Rena as soon as possible, so I'd better give some thought to the subject--the subject being Harry L. Crosby, Jr.

On August 8th the big event that we had been waiting for occurred --Kathryn Crosby gave birth to a baby boy. All of us were thrilled to hear the mother and baby were doing fine, and, of course, we knew that Bing was very happy and proud. The rumor was that Bing and Kathryn had hoped for a girl, and to be frank, I think, some of us did too. Once a baby is born, whether it's a boy or girl, the happy parents insist it's exactly what they wanted all along and Bing and Kathryn are no different.

By now all of us have sent our congratulations, but through the pages of our journal, I'm sure you'll join me in sending congratulations and best wishes to Bing and Kathryn, and a big welcome to Harry Jr.

They say that pictures speak volumes, and one picture is worth a thousand words. I think the picture on the front page of Sunday's New York News (August 17, 1958) proves this beyond a doubt. It was nice to see a picture of Hollywood stars on the front page of the paper, who weren't mixed up in a scandal or juicy story for a change, but just two happy people bringing their new baby home. What a picture it was, too! Bing looked pleased as punch and Kathryn looked radiantly happy. As for the baby, well, it's a little early to tell who he looks like, but I bet we'll wonder if he has the blue eyes of the Crosbys.

IT'S A BOY!.....Continued

Young Mr. Crosby was introduced to his public in quite an auspicious way--his picture on the front page of the country's leading newspapers. After all there have been other babies born to famous people. But Bing Crosby is one of the most beloved personalities in the world, and everyone was interested and anxious to see the newest addition to his family.

Harry L. Crosby is what the cute little boy will be christened. His maternal grandmother was given the honor of naming him, but Bing, himself, has nicknamed him "Tex". Now there's something else for the State of Texas to boast about, and anyway Texans can claim him as one of their own because Kathryn is a Texas gal.

Bing has already said that he hopes his son will decide to enter one of the professions, when he grows up. There are enough show people in the family and he'd like to have a professional man in the family. One thing we are sure of, whatever he does, we know he'll do it well, and he'll have the guidance and inspiration of two people who love him very much.

He is too young to know it now, but whether he enters show business or not, Harry, Jr. has lots of fans already--the members of Club Crosby. His coming was eagerly awaited by all of us, and he has been one of the main subjects in letters that we have written one another in the past couple of months, or to put it more correctly, he was referred to as it. "The baby is due soon, wonder whether it will be a boy or girl"; "Only eight more days until the big event" and then when the big day came the comments were, "So it's a boy for Bing and Kathy. Bet they are happy". "Did you see Bing and the baby on TV? I could go on, but they are just sort of the examples. But the happiest letter was from the lucky gal who shares the same birthday as little "Tex". He was born on Priscilla Koernig's birthday and she is thrilled, as who wouldn't be.

Last year when Bing and Kathryn were married we were happy for both of them, and once again we rejoice in this new happiness which has come to them--a lovely baby boy. We hope he will bring as much happiness to them as his Dad has brought to his fans all over the world, and that will be going some. Welcome Harry L. Crosby, Jr.

I WANT A GIRL JUST LIKE THE GIRL THAT MARRIED DEAR OLD DAD!

Patricia McHale

In the Crosby mansion on Mapleton Drive, this is no doubt the cry. But like the Los Angeles Dodgers, they claim, there is always a next time.

For Bing getting a girl is almost as hard as for my getting a man. But it is said that everything comes to he who struggles while he waits. I'm still struggling and Bing is still waiting. As of August 8, 1958, Bing added to his poker hand with another natural King. In a wild poker game it would take Aces to beat him which ain't likely to happen. So it looks like he has another winner thanks of course to Mrs. Crosby.

This is a milestone. Last year none of us would have dreamed this circle would be repeating itself especially Bing. It has. To a very happy surprise to all of us.

"Tex" weighed in at seven pounds and 9 ounces at Queen of the Angeles Hospital in down-town Los Angeles. Both Mother and baby were fine but Papa was "nervous". I hear tell though that not a father has been lost. The husky lad commands attention before he even sees let alone recognizes the giant world that he has been thrust into.

I WANT A GIRL JUST LIKE THE GIRL THAT MARRIED DEAR OLD DAD...Cont'd.

He has a round fat face, a turned up nose and lots of dark hair. This description if altered a little could be that of his mother who is movie actress Kathryn Grant-a by-product of the state of Texas.

No one will mention the fact that "Junior" should have been a "Junioress". Everything was pink from the bedroom to the booties along with the name, Mary Frances. The name along with all the accessories will have to be chucked away until next year. Oh! Oh! don't put me out on the limb. But, from the way it looks here, there will always be a Crosby. Good luck Kathy and Bing, and our congrats to the "little fella". May he greet this big world with a hope of peace on his lips and content in his heart.

SNAPS FOR SALE

Bing and Kathy at a "Palm Spring Salutes Texas" parade
Bing and Phil Harris on their return from fishing trip in Alaska
Bing and brother Bob (Look, July 22, 1958)
Bing and Kathy at the premiere of, "Gigi"
Bing looking at "Harry Jr.", through glass window at hospital
2 snaps of Bing fishing in Alaska

Can't Let Crosby Clan Down

SHOW MUST GO ON FOR DER BINGLE, 54

James L. Kilgallen

Forget everything you've heard about Bing Crosby quitting show business. He may be, as he says himself, "too old to win the girl and not old enough to give her away" - but he intends neither to retire nor bow out slowly. Bing has plans.

One reason he's still looking forward is that he heads one of the most fabulous family clans in Hollywood and feels he can't let any member of the clan down, and that includes his sons, all four of them.

I spoke with Bing about his plans and his family. And here's the picture.

Bing is today a millionaire, a fellow who can call his shots. He is in demand in TV, motion pictures, radio and records; and he's got a lot of other things going for him such as oil wells, gas production, a big cattle ranch, several homes, real estate and other investments.

He has obligations, too, and feels them strongly. He has a wife, four grown sons whose future is important to him, a couple of brothers who are in business with him, and a legion of loyal employees who have been closely associated with him over the years.

"And I need money, regardless of what Bob Hope says," said Bing who is up in the 90 per cent tax bracket.

Nobody loves the relaxed way of life better than Crosby. But, at the same time, he has a keen sense of responsibility and pride of achievement.

"I think I could bow out of show business but I've changed my mind," Bing told me. "You accumulate obligations, financial and otherwise.

"You just can't close up the show. A lot of people are dependent upon me and besides I have to meet taxes."

At 54, Bing is a slim 5 feet 9½ inches, weighing 165 pounds. He has a high forehead, rather thin face, brown hair and bright blue eyes. He had recently returned from a fishing trip to Alaska and looked fit and tanned.

"What are your immediate plans in show business," I asked.

Puffing at his pipe, Bing replied:

SHOW MUST GO ON FOR DER BINGLE.....Continued

"I have in mind two spectaculars for American Broadcasting Company. The first will begin on October 1. The second will come off in the spring.

Bing who over the years has starred in more than 50 motion pictures including "Going My Way" which won him an Academy Award, said he has "no immediate picture in sight."

"I have a lot of things in the works so far as pictures are concerned," he explained. "Hundreds of scripts have been read but I don't seem to fit into them. As I told you I'm getting on in years - too old to win the girl and not old enough to give her away.

"But I have two pictures in abeyance which I may be able to fit into. One is "The Bells Are Ringing," a Broadway show, which may be made into a picture next spring, and "The Travels of Jamie McPheeters" a story of the gold rush, MGM may make this last one and I may have a part in it.

On radio, Bing is currently doing a 5-minute 5-time a week show. The show is taped in advance by Bing wherever he may be, and is fed to a nation-wide audience.

Bing also still cuts records from time to time. He has made some highly successful ones with his son, Gary, who seems to have the makings of "another Bing".

Like any normal father, Bing is hopeful his sons will make good in whatever careers they choose. But he is not trying to impose his will on the young men regarding the vocations they undertake. He remembers that it was once his family's idea that he become a lawyer.

Bing realizes that the boys have reached a critical period of their lives and he's as concerned as any father would be that they turn out all right.

"I never stop advising them," Bing told me. And with a wry smile he added:

"But they stopped listening when they were 16."

FROM OUR NEW HONORARIES

149 Chipstead Way,
Woodmansterne,
Surrey, England
April 29th, 1958

Miss. R. Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Miss Albanesi,

Many thanks for your letter of April 10th. Yes, my wife and I have been fans for years of Bing, in fact it was Bing who brought us together, and I would be only too happy to become an honorary member of your Club.

I hope to be in the States in the Fall, and if I do maybe we could meet.

Once more very many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Michael Holliday

25 Elmont Terrace,
Lower Mitcham
South Australia
29th June, 1958

Dear Rena,

Many thanks for your very nice letter. I indeed feel it an honour to be made an Honorary Member - and an obligation.

I feel that it is up to me, more than ever, to do my best for the Club and Bing. I certainly have the incentive to, and every time I play one of Bing's records, it is renewed.

I started taking on interest in Bing in 1933, and now have at least one pressing of all his commercial recordings, except for 2 or 3 Whiteman's, and "I've Got the Girl" (Don Clark). I agree that there is no performer to top Bing-and somehow I think there never will be. Thank goodness electrical recording was developed by the time Bing came on the scene. I pity the followers of Caruso and Melba, having to suffer inferior recording.

Best wishes-and carry on the good work. I in turn will keep the flag flying down here in South Australia

Thanks again for your kind words.

Bing-cerely,

Long Beach

Pat Sullivan

I used "Britain's Bing Crosby" as a title for this article with purpose. Placing that moniker on a singer is sure to raise the hackles of all Crosby fans everywhere. I know it always gets the "indeed" reaction from me. But that was before Michael Holliday! Here's a brief introduction to Mike and a brief explanation as to why the title suits him.

The name is not entirely new to you I'm sure. The appearance of it on the roster of our club's honorary members mark him as a fellow Crosby fan. And fellow member, Stan White, president of the British Crosby Collector Club, has already written about him for these pages.

However, since recordings by British singers rarely make their way across to our shores, the voice and the man probably not familiar to you at all.

As a beginning then, here are a few biographical facts. Born in Liverpool 29 years ago, Mike began his singing career in 1953. Before that he was a member of the Merchant Navy. It was during this period that he won a talent competition in New York and decided to sing professionally. After touring with Eric Winston's band for 3 years, he made a recording test at Columbia Records which proved to be his big break. A succession of hit records. Married at 19, he now lives in Surrey with his wife Marge and their 8-year old son Mike Jr.

So much for biography. The two most interesting things about Mike, to me, are his vocal ability which is outstanding coupled with his open admiration for our Bing Crosby. A recent edition of Britain's musical trade paper, "The Record Mirror," devoted a special feature to Mike and told the story so well I believe I'll just give you a portion of the write up here:

MIKE'S LIKE BING - BUT CROSBY FANS DON'T MIND

Dick Tatham

Sometimes, if an upcoming singer sounds too much like someone already famous, it hinders him no end--a good example being the criticism levelled at Vic Damone for his "copying" of Frank Sinatra. Crosby imitators in particular have been many--and most of them have enjoyed only limited success.

Mike Holliday makes no bones about the connection. He tells you: "I've always thought Bing the greatest. When I was a kid, I was forever trying to sing like him. Nowadays I certainly don't try to copy him exactly; but I just can't help my general style being similar even though I can't hope to be anywhere near Bing's class."

Frankly I've been in two minds myself about how much the similarity matters. So, I expect others. But there's one important group of people who have made up their minds in no uncertain fashion. I refer to the Crosby fans in Britain.

Early this week, I had a letter from Stanley White, of the Crosby Collector Magazine. Blow me down if he and his colleagues haven't compiled a discography, "Michael Holliday on Record," with comments which make it plain they welcome the Holliday vocal efforts.

Quote: "It gives us a great deal of pleasure to present this discography of the young British singer from Liverpool who, in our opinion must rate as 'The British Bing Crosby'--not that we feel that Mike copies Bing; he just has the same simplicity and charm in his voice."

Also quoted is Frank Murphy (of the British Crosby Society): "It's no disgrace that next to Bing he is my favorite singer."

BRITAIN'S BING CROSBY.....Continued

There is only one Bing; but wait! there is only one Michael Holliday."

When I spoke to Holliday himself about all this, he seemed vastly encouraged and complimented. He says, "I often used to wonder how Crosby enthusiasts would react my efforts. I was half afraid they'd object. I'm pretty overwhelmed by this gesture on their part. I hardly feel I deserve it, but it certainly makes me feel wonderful."

My own guess is that this action by Britain's Crosby fans spring not just from Mike's vocal ability. After all, other singers over here have sounded like Bing (some more so than Mike Holliday); but they haven't had all this attention.

What in my view has clinched the matter is Mike's frank acknowledgement of his admiration for Crosby, and for the influence the American has had upon him--plus the fact that he's never at any time showed anything other than a homely, unpretentious attitude towards his own singing.

It'll be interesting to see if Britian Crosby fans now start making representations to their brethren in America...

There you have a brief look at the story behind the man who bears the British Bing Crosby title. I was introduced to his work by my British friend, Stan White, and now, through me, I'd like the rest of you to know him too. If I've given the impression that I consider him to be Bing's successor or Bing's match, I will add in conclusion "not so"! No-one will ever so satisfactorily combine the singing talent and unique personality of Bing Crosby. Certainly not to me!

I merely wish to welcome a singer who happens to be, not only a Crosby fan himself, but also a fellow who sounds enough like his favorite to bring Bing to mind to all other Crosby fans everywhere everytime he sings. Britain's Bing Crosby? Well, perhaps-but he's not an imitator. There is a Crosby-like reminder in his singing which is a pleasant reminder, but I think the title should be Britain's Michael Holliday instead, because he is a fine new artist in his own right. I hope you'll be hearing him soon because, believe me, you're in for a treat if you've never heard Michael Holliday.

Bing's Son Goes Into the Song Business

Pullman, Wash.-Chuck Morell, a rugged fullback on the Washington State College football team, has turned up as a song writer with a name plugger for his tunes-Bing Crosby's son.

Phil Crosby, 23 is Morell's roommate at WSC and has recorded two of his songs. Morell, 21, and Crosby are both radio-speech majors and they will strike out this week for Los Angeles to find a record company to market them.

Morell, whose football belies any interest in tender ballads has written, "I'm in Love With You, and You Know It". On the other side is a mild rock 'n' roll called "Ball of Love."

Crosby and Morell got together on the football team. Phil is a husky guard with a chance of making the Cougar travelling squad next fall.

The two have already contacted Bing's agent in California for help in furthering their musical career.

Like young Crosby, Morell also has a twin brother, Gary Morell, a WSC halfback. Phil's twin Dennis, was recently married to showgirl Pat Shochan. Morell is from Downey, California.

Phil sounds more like his older brother Gary than Bing, and whistles a few bars of the songs in the Crosby style.

SOUTHERN CROSS BRANCH

Thelma Hardie

Well, there isn't really much to report just now, but I can tell you that Bing's LP Album, "New Tricks" is meeting with success. The "reviews" are excellent and the sales very good. This recording contains some lovely old songs, sung as only Bing can sing them. "Bing With a Beat", "Jack B. Nimble"/"Emperor's New Clothes", "Gigi"/"Chicago", "Nothing in Common"/"Paris Holiday", "Straight Down the Middle"/"Tomorrow is My Lucky Day", have all been released in Australia, but are not yet on sale in this country, so we have some good recordings to look forward to in the near future.

On this occasion, the 22nd. Anniversary of "The Club Crosby" I would like to mention the very great pleasure I have had from the Club during the years I have been a member. My sincere thanks to all the American members and others who have helped me during the three years I have been president of the Southern Cross Branch. I would also like to mention the help received from Rena. Her weekly letters keep me well informed at all times.

I would suggest that members take full advantage of the many privileges offered by this fine club. Members should answer advertisements for pen-pals, write regularly, exchange clippings etc., start scrap-books and snap collections. In this way they could get much pleasure from their membership.

In closing, we send our congratulations and best wishes to Kathryn and Bing on the birth of their little son.

Until the next time, best wishes to you all.

Crosby Goes to ABC

Bing Crosby, long a CBS attraction, has switched to ABC. He has signed a five-year-radio-TV pact for an undisclosed sum. The Groaner will be seen at least on two 90-minute TV specs per season, according to Thomas W. Moore, ABC v.p. in charge of television programming. (He has shied away from regular TV chores for years.) No radio plans have been set yet.

Moore also announced that the network will back Crosby in the development and production of 10 new TV programs, in which he may or may not appear. "His entertainment know-how should be invaluable in bringing fresh, new ideas to the TV screen," Moore said.

According to reports, this opportunity to come up with new video shows was the clincher which brought Crosby to ABC.

Crosby probably won't assume his duties until next October 1. His CBS commitments, now limited to daily five-minute recorded radio shows, end in September.

(Daily News)

June 4, 1958

Oldsmobile Takes Bing's first ABC Package

Oldsmobile has bought full sponsorship of Bing Crosby's 90-minute specials next season on ABC-TV. The singer will produce and headline a minimum of two telecasts and a maximum of four in this series.

(Billboard)

June 9, 1958

To no one's surprise, six sponsors were waiting in line when word got out about Bing Crosby's two yearly specials on ABC. General Motors was the early bird.

(Herald Tribune)

June 13, 1958

Hi "Bingang"!

Your West Coast Representate just couldn't resist driving down to Pebble Beach again. My girl friend Donna, and my cousin Maryrose Cordell (also a member of Club Crosby) and I spent a nice three-day weekend (over Memorial Day) in and around Pebble Beach. Course, we didn't see Mr. Bing this time, unfortunately; however, we did manage to find Bing's home from the Pebble Beach Golf Course. Therefore, we were able to see the back of Bing's home this time. What a beautiful home! Such a gorgeous view over-looking Monterey Bay.

Bing Crosby (with his beautiful Kathy) wore a new disguise to Ken's in Chinatown Thursday night. A cigar, instead of his trademark pipe. (San Francisco Chronicle) March 30, 1958

Bing's Golf Fund Helps Boys in San Francisco--Proceeds from the annual Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur golf championship were yesterday extended to Bay area youth establishments. "In appreciation of the strong support our golf tournament receives from San Francisco and northern California, we have decided to extend some of our contributions for youth aid in that direction," said Bing's brother, Larry, of the Crosby committee's action. First local organization to benefit from the program was the San Francisco Working Boys Club. (San Francisco Examiner) May, 1958

Babble-by-the-Bay--- Hither and Thither: Promoter Charlie Stern: "Bing Crosby phoned Ralph Sutton, the pianist, that he'll be up for the USF jazz concert at the Auditorium Sunday." Ralph Sutton: "Bing WHO phoned ME about WHAT???" Pfoof... (San Francisco Chronicle) May 1, 1958

Stars Prefer Desert Life, by Earl Wilson - I must have been stupid. After traveling around the world hunting celebrities, I found the greatest big name preserve right here in the California desert. While we were at composer Jimmy Van Heusen's new home out here amid the sand and the cactus, I asked him, "Where does Bing Crosby live?"--- "About 300 feet up that away." He pointed to Bing's roof. "Nobody else lives really close. It's just Bing and me and the coyotes," said Jimmy. (San Francisco Examiner) May 12, 1958

Oaky, I'm a name-dropper: Bing Crosby, fishing in Alaska, post-cards a photo of three huge totem poles and inquires: "How do you like this monument to the Rhythm Boys?" (San Francisco Chronicle) June 19, 1958 (Herb Caen)

Art Dealer Fred Maxwell has flipped, as who hasn't, over a slinky Korean model named Sung He Chan; she looked so Snugsational at Ernie's night before last, in a slitted red dress, that even Bing Crosby couldn't stop staring. Awright, Gros. Eyes Front. (San Francisco Chronicle) June 26, 1958

Bing Crosby and his Kathy bought a rare Regency rocker cradle in Harry Barnett's antique shop on Sutter last week---even though Mgr. Frances Slaughter warned: "It's so small the baby will outgrow it in no time!" "That's all right," smiled Kathy. "We'll use it right away, for the next one!" (San Francisco Chronicle) July 1, 1958

JUST BITS OF INTEREST FROM THE WEST COAST.....Continued

OL' Bing Bing - Post Mortem, AMA Style: Bing Crosby wandered out of the "Ambrosia Room" at "Ernie's" to use the house phone the other eve when two AMA ladies upped to him and asked for a table for two. Der Bingle nodded and called over to maitre di Carlo Doto: "A table for these two ladies, Carlo." Said one of the ladies to Carlo: "You know, your headwaiter bears a striking resemblance to Bing Crosby." To which the sharp-mined Carlo replied: "Yes, he does, madame. And you should see his wife. Looks just like Kathy Grant" (AMA stands for American Medical Association)
(San Francisco Chronicle) July 2, 1958

Bing Crosby and his Kathy traipsed into Art Unlimited, the good new gallery in Tillman Place, and signed Artist Sam Manning to do their portrait.
(San Francisco Chronicle) July 15, 1958

This may come as something of a surprise to the present generation, but at one time the record business in this country was considered to have died. The obituaries were written about 1929 when radio was at its zenith. In fact, those days were so lean that in many a community it was actually difficult to buy a phonograph record of any kind. Just about the time the obits had been written for the record business along came a young man from Spokane, Washington. The public just couldn't get enough of the guy, so between nightly broadcasts, they wanted to play his records. This perhaps was the turning point for the business. From then on it was all up, not fast, but in the general direction of up....
(San Mateo Times) April 3, 1958

La Ballona Gets 2 Crosbys

Culver City, July 30-With two members of the Crosby clan as grand marshals, an 8-division parade will climax Culver City's Fiesta La Ballona next Saturday beginning 6P.M. Lindsay and Dennis Crosby, who are Bing's boys are scheduled to ride in the parade, which also will feature scores of floats, drill teams, equestrian units and 25 bands.
(Los Angeles Examiner) July 31, 1958

That about "gets it" for this trip. I'm kind of secretly hoping that Bing and Kathryn have their "baby" on August 8th (that's my birthday!). I'm hoping personally to meet quite a few of you Crosby fans in September when Donna, Pat and I vacation in New York, etc. B.C-ing you.

Priscilla Koernig

Here are two people who are looking for records, if any of you know where they can obtain them, please let them know directly. If you have them yourself, or if you know if someone else has them.

Mrs. E. Aicken - 5 Meadow Street - Fernhill, N.S.W. Australia, would like to have "So Do I". Decca 948 - 25232 - 11012

Christine Sanborn - 211 $\frac{1}{2}$ West Madison Avenue - Tallahassee, Florida, would like to have "Tallahassee". Decca 23885

Please do acknowledge your journal, and when you rejoin make out your check or money order to me (Rena Albanesi) and not be made out to "The Club Crosby".
-13-

PIEN PALS

Pat Sullivan

Bill Goebel
1505 Grant Street
Beatrice, Nebraska

Val Kronke
17573 E. Clayton
Parlier, California

Christino Psinas
640 West 107th. Street
Chicago 28, Illinois

Michael Fergue
Gold Street
Belchertown, Mass.

Mike is 17 years old a high school student who is interested chiefly in baseball (Red Sox fan) and who plays for his school team. Mike also rates music, dancing and parties high up on his list of favorite past-times. His hobby is the collecting of Bing Crosby records.

Gael La Fleche
98 Rose Park Drive
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Gael an avid letter writer, lists photography, travel, reading and sewing as her chief interests. And of course, like all the rest of us, she's also a record collector, her taste running mainly to ballads with an occasional rock 'n' roll number.

Graeme Fraser
16 Stanley Road
Gisborne,
New Zealand

From Thelma Hardie, president of the Southern Cross Branch, comes news of this young man who would like a pen pal between the ages of 12 and 14 in any country other than Australia or New Zealand. Graeme is interested in swimming, tennis, soccer, singing, and collecting pics. of film stars, film magazines and records by Bing Crosby and Pat Boone.

Joan Howard
3 Selwood Street
Colac,
Victoria,
Australia

A very nice long letter comes from Joan Howard, asking that I include her name and that of several English girlfriends on this page: Very happy to Joan. Joan is 18, likes Bing, writing, reading and radio.

Ruth Trevaskis - 17
63 Hawkesyard Road
Erdington,
Birmingham 24,
England

Joan's girlfriends can be reached at the following listed addresses. Their interests, to quote Joan's letter, are "Mainly the same as all average teenage girls ranging from mails to males, with some rock 'n' roll discs and disc jockeys thrown in, of course not forgetting Bing." (They are not members of, "The Club Crosby", but how about writing them anyway, maybe they will join us some day.)

Valerie Taylor - 18
Prince of Wales
Mount St. Nichells,
Birmingham 7,
England

Georgina Tweddle - 18
25 Brewery Street
Handsworth
Birmingham, England

Maureen Grafton - 17
63 Turycross Grove
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham 34, England

I have two copies of, "Call Me Lucky" in the \$1.00 copy. I also have a few copies of back journals.

Palm Springs has become a body of sand completely surrounded by benefits. Not a week passes but what the biggest biz of this Midway of the Mojave is a gaudily decorated handout. As a finale they staged an all-week Desert Circus in honor of Texas for the benefit of Palm Springs charities. One Texan named Ray Ryan even revived Glenn McCarthy of Shamrock Hotel notoriety and planed around the Lone Star state drumming up pilgrims from oil wells and ranches to make the trip to this California sand dune.

The week began with a benefit for a church built at Palm Desert where Mr. and Mrs. Harry Crosby now live. It was an all-star show in the Chi Chi Starlite Room at \$17.50 a plate, autographs free. Der Bingle was the emcee, with Phil Harris as his relief pitcher, and he ran a smoother show than if he had been on ice.

If ever he tires of life among the Divot Set he can render no greater public service than taking over the freeways around Los Angeles, for the same skill that makes a talent overloaded benefit run smoothly, especially one with stop-and-go auctions between the acts, can untangle piled-up cars on the freeways. After all, they are both traffic problems. He collected \$13,895 in cash from gifts and at least another 10G from the dinners and drinks. Not bad for one night at an inn.

Now and then I have written about these charity shows but they usually land in the overset because VARIETY, too, has traffic problems. There are limits to what the trade paper can carry in one issue.

Being fetched by a variety of pains that confined me to a linen prison, I asked my Lady Alice to cover Crosby's first try at emceeing a nitery bill. His show featured Rosemary Clooney, Jose Greco's troupe, Phil Harris, Buddy Cole's orch, The Amin Bros, Bobby Winters, Buddy Lester and Bill Alexander's band.

Bing Crosby came on stage in a white jacket, dark trousers and white shirt and black bow tie and sang "In A Little Spanish Town on a Night Like This." It was a lovely night and the song got such a warm hand he said if he thought the audience would be this good he would have worn his hair. That got a laugh so he stretched the joke a bit and explained that unfortunately he had sent the hair out for a crew cut.

He met a lady just before the show who told him not be nervous. With his hands in his pockets he certainly convinced the audience he wasn't nervous. But he said she begged him to be calm and he tried to convince her that this was just another show of thousands to him and that he wasn't nervous at all. "Well, in that case," she asked him, "why are you in the ladies room?"

Between all the numbers Bing slipped in some smooth routines as auctioneer. He started out with a jewelled diamond cross donated by Andrea Leeds Howard which brought \$1,000 in fast bids. Then he auctioned off a lot in the Silver Spur district where he now lives and that went to Eddie Silverman, the Chicago theatre owner who prophesied Hollywood would be a ghost town in six months remember?

The money kept pouring in and Irwin Schulman, owner of Chi Chi's came over to his wife and whispered in her ear. She laughed and told us that he thought the Catholics were smarter than the Jews.

Phil Harris took over for awhile, tried "Row, Row, Row", but Buddy Cole's band topped him all the way. He then auctioned a pup-poddle which he described as "registered, pedigreed and perfumed." Ray Ryan, who was on a buying spree all night got it for \$1,000. A painting by John Morris of Bing as a clown sold for \$1,525. After that Harris did the break-way shirt trick and finished on the story of the priest who was asked to rush to give the last rites to an Irish

Catholic. When he asked how they knew the man was an Irish Catholic, he was told, "Well, Father, they found a bingo card in his pocket."

This brought back der Bingle and not to be outdone he told the one about the traveller who wanted to get off the train at 5:30a.m. in Buffalo. The guy woke up in Grand Central Station and was furious. He dragged the Pullman conductor off to report the outrage to the station-master, but the conductor was quite calm about it, said he was getting used to angry passengers. "The guy I threw off in Buffalo was just as mad," he said.

Then Bing told the gag about the guy who asked a cab driver to take him to Christ Church in New York, and was dumped at St. Patrick's Cathedral instead. The fare protested. "Well," said the cabbie, "if He's in town He's in there."

He then introduced Jose Greco and his Flamingo dancers, 14 in all, and they just about stole the show from their relaxed, charming host. The smallest of the troupe had the most fire and vivacity. The husband of Gertrude Niesen told me he gave Greco a job in 1940 for \$60 a week. Greco never forget it.

After some more bids and fat checks Crosby tried another Irish tale. This one was about the old man who had worked 50 years in a lumber yard. He decided his time was getting short he'd better get back to the sacraments. He confessed that every day when he quit work he would take home a little lumber. And over 50 years that amounted to a lot. The priest thought it was serious and asked the old man if he'd ever made a retreat? The old guy lit up and said, "No, Father, but if you get the plans I'll get the lumber."

You must remember this was a benefit for a Catholic Church, and trade jokes went over best.

Crosby then introduced Bobby Winters, a juggler more nonchalant if possible than Bing himself and a very comical guy. He did a complicated juggling trick blindfolded, then turned around so that the audience could see the blindfold had a big slit for his back-stage eye.

He dropped one of his props, took out a piece of paper and reread the directions. He flubbed again, read the directions more carefully, and then did it right.

Crosby played the straight man in this act. For a finish Winters burned a hole in a borrowed handkerchief, went through a lot of rigamarole opened the handkerchief and there it had a hole in the middle. He assured the audience it had never happened before, whereupon the whole orchestra stood up, each unfolding a handkerchief with a hole in the middle.

Then the old Groaner brought on the creme de la creme Rosemary Clooney. With blonde shiny hair and a polka-dotted dark dress featuring a harem skirt, she sang six numbers solo and then teamed with the old master in two duets, one of them being a beautiful rendition of "Give Me Something to Remember You By."

It was getting next to closing so he brought on the Amin Brothers a pair of Arabian acrobats who were featured at Chi Chi's all week. Though it was nearly one o'clock their act got a tremendous hand.

Buddy Lester came on to close the show and he was in fine form. In order to balance the gag budget a bit he told about a genie who asked a Jewish shopkeeper what he wanted more than anything. He said he wanted to take his wife and kids to Grossinger's for a week. The genie arranged it and said he would take care of the store. The first customer who came in said, "Make me a chocolate soda." The genie said, "Oaky you are a chocolate soda."

Lester sang "Old Man River" in the manner of Peter Lind Hayes. He couldn't very well do it in the manner of Bing Crosby because Crosby had earlier imitated himself in the number flawlessly. Then Buddy did his duel with a trumpet player and sang a song by Rogers and Hart. ("Roy Rogers and William S. Hart") "People Will Say We're in Love." It went over so well Lester asked the orchestra to give the audience a big hand.

Frank Scully Variety

May 7, 1958

Phil Silvers

Column Has a Lining of Silvers

I was talking to Gary Crosby the other day about doing a few guest shots on our "Sgt. Bilko" series this Fall and Winter, and he seemed to like the idea. So maybe we'll be adding to our Roseville platoon. I think Gary's a bright young fellow with a fine flair for performing and I have known him for some 20 years-since he was about three, as a matter of fact. He sings well, talks with the casual charm of his old man, and has the right temperament for show business. Sometimes, as Kingfish of the Amos 'n' Andy radio show used to say, "The offspring springs higher than the offspring it springs off." Gary and his brothers had a lot of fun growing up, but always with a good amount of discipline thrown in, especially when Dixie was alive. One time I recall, I was invited to dinner at Bing's home in Hollywood but then before we went inside the kids and I played a few innings of soft ball on the front lawn. It was a scoreless tie going into the fifth inning when the dinner called sounded. Phil, one of the twins sidled up to Gary and insisted that Gary ask Bing to let us all go a few extra innings. Gary passed the buck back to Philip, but the kid thought it over and finally decided: "No, Gary, you ask Dad. You know him longer than we do!"

So much for Bing the Father. Now we come in this annual reminiscence of mine for (Dorothy Kilgallen), to Bing the actor. I recall vividly the time he appeared on the Bilko series two seasons ago. It had all come out of a booking which had Bing and me on the same Ed Sullivan show. Nat Hiken, writing the program at the time, came by for rehearsal and when he saw Crosby he whispered that he had a program idea which fitted Bing perfectly.

I knew Bing watched our show and asked him if he'd do a bit with us. We never dreamed he'd have the time or the inclination but Bing always surprises. He said okay-but it had to be done the following morning. Hurriedly, we sounded the alarm for the camera crew and engaged the studio. There was one complication though. All we had was an idea-no plot line, not a beginning, not an ending. Hiken and I shut ourselves in a room that night and came out with no story, but with a story ending.

The following day we established a TV precedent: we shot the ending to a television program for which there was no beginning. But we had one thing going for us-Bing Crosby playing himself. From there, we worked backwards and came out with what was probably the best Bilko show we've ever done.

Pat McHale sells magazine subscriptions for Cowles Publishing Co.,

she has the agency for the Midwest and can accept subscriptions all over the US. She has in her catalogue over 3000 magazines. If you do not have any subscriptions or when your subscription is up, you can subscribe through Pat McHale - 1314 Wright Street - Indianapolis, Indiana.

RECORD REVIEW

Rena Albanesi

Never Be Afraid - Bing Crosby With Music by Lew Spence-Golden A198:22

A wonderful, warm, musical version of the famous Hans Christian Anderson story narrated and sung delightfully by Bing Crosby. The music adds much to the story, and it ends up pointing a moral for the kids. Second side contains a medley of the musical score.

(Billboard) May 12, 1958

Jack B. Nimble - Bing Crosby With Music by Dean Fuller-Golden A198-23
(No review)

Bing Crosby Sings Vocation VL3603

Here's a solid item for Decca's low-priced (\$1.98) album line with strong appeal adult buyers. A Crosby croons pleasantly on a group of standards (culled from the catalog) including "Vaya Con Dios," "No Other Love," "Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy," etc. Sides are backed by John Scott Trotter, Buddy Cole and Perry Botkin.

(Billboard) June 23, 1958

Bing In Paris DL 8780

The old master is at his most appealing in this album of songs from or about Paris. Crosby puts the stamp of his own personality in his renditions of such numbers as "Autumn Leaves," "I Love Paris," "La Vie en Rose" and "Domino". Prime appeal to adult buyers.

(Billboard) August 4, 1958

Lindsay Crosby R.C.A. Victor 7313

One Chocolate Soda With Two Straws - Fair rendition by the young singer of a medium rocker. Theme is keyed to the teen market.

Ding Dong - A growling bouncer rendition by Crosby for fair results.

(Billboard) August 4, 1958

Bing in Alaska fishing
trip

MEET THE MEMBERS

Mary Maloney

Hi Everyone!

Hope you all had a nice Summer and enjoyed your vacations. I certainly had a wonderful one. Spent one week in New York City with a club friend of mine from Massachusetts and met other clubbers and couple of actors. My girlfriend and I saw four plays, a couple of the latest movies, went to some TV shows and in general and lots of fun. I relaxed at home the second week, well not exactly. I took day trips several days. In September I'm going to Atlantic City for a week, with another girl friend I've made through clubs. This is the first year I get three weeks' vacation and it certainly is wonderful.

Many thanks to those of you who have written to me for this column. Would like to hear from more of you, so if you haven't written yet, please do. Now let's meet our first member.

Elaine Hastings of 609 West State Street, Mascoutah, Illinois. This young lady has really seen the world. Right now she lives in a small town in Southern Illinois, not too far from St. Louis, but her father is in the Air Force and in her 13 years, she has lived all over the United States as well as Japan and Panama. She is 5'2 3/4" tall, has dark blond hair, blue eyes and wears glasses. Bing has been her favorite singer since she was nine. She writes that recently she has been having a rather hard time standing up for her likes at school, since she doesn't care for rock and roll. Her other favorites are Glenn Miller, Rosemary Clooney and Judy Garland.

Elaine loves baseball and almost lives on it during the Summer. It seems to me if a poll were taken of the favorite sport of our club members, baseball would win, at least among the members in the United States. Going to the movies, collecting records (mostly Bing's) and stamps, reading, shopping for clothes, sewing listening to the radio, watching Tv and even studying are all the other things she likes to do.

Our next member wrote such an interesting letter that I'm going to let her tell you about herself. Mrs. Joyce Field, of 25 Carlyle Street, Mackay (the Barrier Reef City of the North) North Queensland, Australia. "I am English, was born in one of the many suburbs of London some forty years ago. Had a year to travel and got as far as Mackay, where I met and married a member of a well-known business family. We are happy parents of four children, two boys and two girls.

My hobbies? Am a member of the YWCA Board and also belong to various clubs connected with same. I represent the YWCA on the Australian Spastic Committee and at present moment we are busy with the "Miss Australia Quest". (Mackay Section).

Am also a Sunday School teacher. Last but not least, have the honor to be North Queensland leader of the Club Crosby. When Thelma Hardie suggested I accept this honor I was the only member in Mackay, but now we have a club of fifteen and some future prospects. Our club night is the last Friday in each month. We meet here in my home, swap news, read my scrapbooks, which I try to keep up-to-date, also the snap service, and I try to have the latest records.

Our local Radio Station has given me 30 minutes every Saturday morning and its, "Joyce Field presents the Club Crosby Show". All records played are mine, and I try to make the program interesting and to suit all tastes. So far I don't seem to be doing to bad.

I would like to put on a program of Bing's gold records. If anyone can give me details, stories or anecdotes pertaining to these particular recordings, I would be very grateful, as I'd like to have a show with a difference. Will not start it, until I'm satisfied that I have just that.

If all goes well, another Queensland Radio Station says if I have something interesting they may offer me a show also.

I have not been a member of the Club Crosby very long (three years) but believe me, I have thoroughly enjoyed those years, the people I have made and the friendships formed.

Vital statistics about myself--I have an English complexion, am 5'6" tall, slim, have grey blue eyes and brown curly hair.

That's all the members we'll meet this trip. Before I close I have an apology to make for an error in my last column. I referred to Lester Hershkowitz as she and it should have been he. My apologies, Lester.

By the time you read this journal, there will be a new addition in the Crosby family, and I know we all feel the same--sincere congratulations and best wishes to father, mother and baby.

CROSBY HISTORY OF THE WORLD Hy Gardner

The expectation of seeing and hearing Bing Crosby on live ABC-TV this Fall almost makes the current epidemic of Repeats, Westerns, Repeats, Quizzes, Repeats, Games and Repeats almost endurable.

You don't realize until you've scanned the list of double-Decca records Bing has cut in the past 24 years to appreciate how much a part of history is written between the grooves of his memorable black wax platters. Let's look at the record.

When Bing made JUNE IN JANUARY back in August of '34 Hitler, became absolute dictator of Germany...While he was crooning LOVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, Mussolini's hordes were turning the corner in their senseless invasion of little Ethiopia...

Shortly thereafter Bing made PENNIES FROM HEAVEN and F.D.R. inaugurated the W.P.A. in an effort to stick a finger in the dikes of unemployment.

In '37 while the juke boxes of the nation gave the needle to the soothing strains of SWEET LEILANI the Japs said they were velly solly they sank the U.S. Gunboat "Panay"...

In the wake of the nationwide nightmare created by an Orson Welles radio "Attack from Mars" in 1938, most of the nation's radio stations played Crosby's gay recording of ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND.

Back in '39 when everybody joined Bing to sing SOMEBODY LOVES ME Great Britain and France joined hands and arms and declared war on the Nazis. It was also the year New York picked to stage a World's Fair...

"Murder Inc.," broke into the headlines in '40 and made a N.Y. Governor out of battling district attorney Tom Dewey. At the height of the brawl Bing was breaking in his theme song WHEN THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT MEETS THE GOLD OF THE DAY...

Many of us recall that December Sunday in '41 when Crosby's ANNIVERSARY WALTZ was interrupted for the spine-chilling bulletin telling us about the Jap sneak attack on Pearl Harbor...

It was in '42 when Gen. Douglas MacArthur was landing in Australia and promising the Philippine people "I will Return!" when Bing's recordings of Irving Berlin's EASTER PARADE and WHITE CHRISTMAS soothed the air...

JINGLE BELLS signalized the beginning of food rationing in '43 and when DON'T FENCE ME IN was having a whirl around the jukeboxes in '44 our G.I.'s invaded the coast of France...

AFTER YOU'RE GONE was a timely theme in '46 when the War Crimes trials put some of the Nazis on the hot seat in Nuremberg...And while Secretary of State George C. Marshall was busy outlining the Marshall Plan Bing was crooning THE ANNIVERSARY SONG for his Decca bosses.

In '48 "Billboard" and "Variety" and "Downbeat" magazines hailed Crosby's FAR AWAY PLACES while the daily newspapers reported the Commies seized power in Czechoslovakia and Tojo was sentenced to hang.

Bing chanted DEAR HEARTS AND GENTLE PEOPLE when a dozen nations signed the N.A.T.O. pact... In '51 right after the atom bomb spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were sentenced to death, the top Crosby lyric, ironically, was 'titled GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

IT HAD TO BE YOU was the Crosby favorite when the American people decided the "You" was General Eisenhower for President. This was also the year young Elizabeth succeeded to the throne.

Subsequently came such nostalgic favorites as APRIL SHOWERS, SILVER MOON, SWANEE and, when Kathy Grant came into his life the hi-fi set in his den crooned WHEN MY BABY SMILES AT ME and WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

Bing only recorded two sides thus far in '58. But one side should be played before and after every TV-radio bulletin announcing Nikita Khrushchev's latest pronouncement about attending a Summit meeting on Western terms. It is called YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY.

Gruesome Lets Bing Grow Some Punning Harold Heffernan

Bing Crosby's reaction to the most recent story of his "retirement" - they've averaged about one a year - was typical. A pleasant shrug and "well, it's a lot better than another one that's been ruining my sleep ever since I came to Hollywood."

The Groaner was referring, of course to a never-ending procession of "death" rumors that have been haunting him, and Paramount Studio a couple of times annually since 1936.

Such unfounded reports are tied to almost every top Hollywood personality from time to time, (they stated that they started out on Mary Pickford as a girl) but never have they approached in number or variety to those applied to Der Bingle. Most recent of these on record flashed in for verification early in March, emanation from a South Carolina source. This one however, displayed little imagination. It had Bing the victim of common ordinary freeway automobile crash.

"I guess by now I should be recognized as the official stomper-outer of Bing Crosby death rumors," observed Paramount's veteran press agent, Andy Hervey. He figures he's tracked down close to 50 of them during his 20-year tenure on that lot. "Worst of all, they seem to come in during the late night and early morning.

But you never dare hang up the phone and go back to sleep. There's always that one chance in a million. My procedure is invariably the same. I call one of Bing's three homes or vacation hideouts. Nine times in ten I find in a matter of minutes, through a servant that he's in the house and fast asleep. If I can't locate him in any of those spots, then I get up and dress and am awake for the rest of the night. Occasionally Bing will answer the phone, Harvey adds, and, recognizing the familiar voice, will usually have a gruesome pun to close out the checkup. ***** I wrote an article about Bing for Patricia Watts Fan Club for Pat Boone, I thought you might like to read what I wrote, it was entitled, JUST A BIT ABOUT BING.

Pat has asked me to write an article on Bing Crosby for your journal. I was very happy to accept. With Bing in show business these many years, it is very hard to write anything new, especially when you're an amateur at doing so.

From the time Bing left home to go into show business, his voice has brought much joy and happiness to all, as most everyone knows. "The voice of Bing Crosby has been heard by more people than the voice of any other human being who ever lived." In all branches of show business in which he has taken part, he has received its top honor. He has received the Academy Award for the movies, twenty gold records for his recordings, and many of the top award and honors for all his years in radio.

For the present time we are looking forward to seeing "Man On Fire", Bing's new movie, which is a straight dramatic role with no singing at all. Also he will appear on television "live", which is quite rare for him. It will be on October 13th, in a CBS spectacular. We also have good news that he may be returning to radio in October. Of course, as other show business performers say, "Bing has four other Crosbys warming up in the bull pen", meaning the four boys. Gary and Lanny are the only two that may go into show business, both are now serving in the United States Army. The twins have hopes of running Bing's ranch up at Elko, Nevada. So, it seems as though there will always be a Crosby, and there is Bob Crosby's daughter, Cathy, who is also interested in show business.

I am very happy to have Pat Boone as an honorary member in our "The Club Crosby". I was also glad to hear that Bing accepted to be an honorary in your club. I know that they have a great deal of respect for each other. I was happy to read, that they have finally met each other. I know that Bing has said, that Pat is the best of the new and up coming singers, and you can be sure I go right along with him on that.

Now, to tell you something about our, "The Club Crosby". We are really very proud of our club, this year 1957, we are in our 21st year. We have received nothing but the very best cooperation from Bing and the Crosby office, which of course is the main reason for our being able to stay together these many years. One of our proudest possessions is a scroll, which we received from a fan club organization which reads, "In appreciation to "Bing Crosby Fan Club" for twenty years of outstanding service to fan clubbing.

As you can tell by the article, this appeared in one of last year's journals. If you want to join Pat Boone's club, just write to Patricia Watts, 123-02 114th. Street, South Ozone Park 36, New York



BING AND BILL MORROW

TO-MORROW

Maurine Carter - 9703 Horley Avenue - Downey, California

By his own definition Bill Morrow is a living anachronism.

"In twenty years as a comedy writer I've worked for only two men, Jack Benny and Bing Crosby. This, in a profession where the average writer changes employers as frequently as he changes his sox.

"It's not intentional, I've enjoyed writing for them. It's hard to find someone for whom you enjoy writing.

"Originally," he laughs, "I started out to be a cartoonist! it makes me wonder how many people actually end up in the field they once set out to conquer?"

Raised in the Midwest, Bill had planned to study art and eventually, with a little luck, become a political-editorial cartoonist for a metropolitan paper, but the vagaries of life being what they are, he wound up a scribe for such funnymen as Benny and Crosby.

Morrow was born in Sandwich, Illinois, "Sometime ago and ingeniously managed to survive a normal childhood!" Following high school he enrolled in a Chicago art school, never reaching college, oddly enough one of his first jobs was that of a cartoonist for the magazine "College Humor". Looking back today, Bill says, "I thought I'd be an artist -- guess I'm just too darn lazy for that type of work."

"I sometimes regret the fact that I never attended college, a writer who wants to go into a definite field should have some college studies in that specific line of writing. To compensate for a non-college education I began to do a lot of reading and still do today. To be a successful writer you need at least a little knowledge of most fields.

In making the change from commercial art to writing he took a whirl at newspaper work and even being a press agent. This occurred during the "Band Era" - the 1930's and his clients consisted largely of big name bands, orchestras, and acts.

Today Morrow writes and co-produces for Der Bingle, occasionally putting a hand into the directing end, but writing accounts for most of his time. He is a brilliant writer, one who is regarded by other members of his profession as possibly the best radio script writer in the business.

He honestly believes there is creative security in his profession.

"Of course we've really cut down on production of late, and do only six or seven five-minute 'Ford Road Show' segments each week, but there is always something new to dream up or dream of -- you feel as if something else exciting is just around the corner."

"I'm not doing the Sinatra stanza as originally announced -- I did the first few scripts for him -- it didn't go over on film, therefore he had to switch to 'live' -- it got to be too much so I cut out!"

Bill Morrow is another of the globe-trotting citizens of Hollywood. "For pleasure I prefer to travel. I had a trip to Costa Rica via the new highway all schemed up for the early part of the year, but got involved in a 90-minute special TV show which takes three months to write. I simply love traveling -- it's fabulous for a writer because in so many instances you can tie things in more easily geographically speaking -- for me it's invaluable.

"New York is a fabulous town for writers -- it has everything so compact and convenient -- Broadway, sports, museums -- but here we're all spread out -- but I'm happy -- California wins hands down thanks to its climate and lazy living."

Morrow gleefully takes credit for learning how to speak bad French, understand correct English, and belligerently insists he can grasp Italian and German if exposed to either for any length of time.

His non-nomadical hobbies are photography, reading, cooking and golf. His reading ranges among world affairs, condensed novels, and all types of book reviews.

Nutritionally speaking Bill feels "lunch hours are a waste of time!" They take too much time that otherwise could be spent in writing, and by avoiding them I can usually quit earlier. Then, too, there's my diet problems! I still enjoy cooking in the office on my little camp stove, my specialties are soups and conglomerations. Some people describe me as a gourmet, possibly I am, but I refuse to accept the idea graciously. I enjoy good food and also preparing it. Let's say I enjoy messing around in the pots and pans..."

Bill's office is located on the second floor of the CBS-Radio building in Hollywood, and has made it as isolated as possible. He employs two secretaries -- one for five days a week, another for week ends. According to bossman Bing, "Bill drives his secretaries crazy. They're shell-shocked after six months -- not many of them last that long."

A confirmed bachelor for many years, in December of 1955 Bill married the former "Miss Georgia", model Mary Henderson. The ceremony took place in Bing's Palm Springs home with the Groaner giving the bride away and singing "I Love you Truly."

Between travels, the Morrrows make their home in a Hollywood apartment where Bill manages a good deal of cooking and relaxing. Weekends are spent between Hollywood, Palm Springs and other spots -- more likely than not in the company of the Crosbys.

Often Bill will send the radio show production crew to Bing's locale whether it is Palm Springs, Pebble Beach, Elko or Hayden Lake, Idaho, to tape a series of shows. Occasionally at such times he remains in Hollywood and accomplishes something -- as he explains it, "Me? I'm too busy! Why go along -- all they do is have one big party -- I'll admit they do have a ball -- but I never get anything written." Maybe I'm too Catholic in my ways," explains Bill, "I like my solitude, which a writer definitely must accomodate, and more than occasionally I might add!"

Morrow is what is known as that rarest of creatures 'deadline writer' and is noted for "supplying the right word at the right time."

Boss-man Bing has described the writer as "slightly eccentric" and "highly colorful". Bing gave readers a vivid picture of Bill in "Call Me Lucky". Of Bing, Morrow has plenty to remark, he was once quoted as saying, "Bing Crosby is a pleasant sound in tune with the people." He is one of Bing's closest friends (has often been referred to as the 'closest' by members of the press), is what is popularly known in 'Crosby's Dictionary' as 'fishin' buddy". Bill thinks Bing is simply wonderful to all his associates and is such a devoted family man.

Their paths first crossed in 1936 at Paramount Pictures (they had met before on several occasions, but this meeting stands out in Morrow's memory as the first 'real' meeting). Morrow began writing for Bing in the early '40's. "Today," says Bill, "the show really doesn't demand too much of Bing -- we discuss the show's structure and he sort of lets us lead the way. Bing never has too many 'irons in the fire' and therefore can devote more time to certain items. He's not like a lot of others who have so many things going at once, he's very smart in this sense. Bing's very easy to work with -- he's relaxed, very business-minded, (just the opposite of what he would lead one to think). A really fabulous person!! We've had some terrific times traveling as well as working together."

Speaking candidly, Morrow distinguishes the difference of writing for Bing from doing so for others as "In the case of Benny's show you have all those assorted different characters -- but Bing is a singer and is a totally different personality with scripts centering around him. You can't use a lot of funny stuff with him because it just isn't his style. However he's also a very good comedian and a terrific actor!"

"To me Bing's outstanding qualities are his speed and punctuality. He likes things to be well-organized beforehand, but is always ready to pitch in where necessary and do more than his share of work. I've never seen him lose his temper and blow-off, but he does detest pressure and crowding and he'll walk out if anyone starts pushing him. In the same way he's of a positive mind. Once he makes a decision that's it. If I had to make a one sentence definition, I'd say Bing is a perfectionist in a casual sort of way."

Outside of scripts, the writer simply lists his credits as "really nothing important". Modestly he reports, "I've never written anything that satisfied me, I'm too darned much of a perfectionist! Writing does demand the bulk of my time and I do frequently take my work home."

"At the moment I'm working on three scripts -- all plays. I should really only work on one, but doing three at a time is just another form of laziness and procrastination! Speaking of laziness this taping equipment is fabulous -- it really fills the need and I can work on more things at once. But it does make one lazy!"

A normal evening out for the Morrows consists of good food and a good legitimate play or outstanding movie.

"My friends and social acquaintances are as varied as they come," he admits, "they're from all phases of life beginning with high society hounds down through race tracks characters, boxers, movie people to just plain everyday people. I love all types of characters, after all they're what makes life interesting!"

The Morrows have membership in three golf clubs and the famed exclusive San Francisco men's Bohemian Club.

His ambition someday? "Well, if I wasn't a writer," confesses Bill Morrow, "I'd like to be a very healthy, a very successful, a very lazy beachcomber!"

Bing's writer of 13 years, Bill Morrow was a very pleasant interviewee, one of my favorites. The above feature was written following the confab in November, 1957

Portions of "The Danny Kaye Saga", a book by Kurt Singer, copyright 1957.

One night when Danny Kaye was still only twenty-two, he took a girl, whose name he has long forgotten, to a Brooklyn movie, Bing Crosby sang.

Of course, Crosby has been the idol for most young hopefuls. He has style, he tells a full story in every song, he is relaxed and he sings as if he were crooning to each separate person listening. Danny that night lost his romantic notions, neglected the girl he escorted and began to analyze. Could anyone sing as "right" as Crosby? Could he? Would he? He didn't have Bing's voice, had a completely different personality, different background, different schooling-but Bing's ease, relaxed approach and unostentatiousness kept the crowds spellbound. It was the right formula. Crosby was no Adonis either, no hard-hitting, hard-loving, hard-living type of an actor or singer.

Danny Kaye never denies that Bing Crosby made a deep impression on him in his earlier years. "Almost everybody in the world thinks of Bing Crosby as a close personal friend," said Danny. Deep in his subconscious Danny wanted to achieve the same relation with his audiences and he knew Crosby held the great formula for being loved by countless millions. (page 37)

"White Christmas" was not a great picture, but Danny carried away \$250,000 and ten per cent of its considerable profits, which partially at least, was consolation for the fact that he looked a trifle pale and weak by the side of such competition as "the Bingle" and Rosemary Clooney. In spite of his excellent dancing acts, which spoof modern choreography, there was little of lasting value in this picture other than a close friendship with Mr. Crosby.

When asked what Danny thought of Bing Crosby, who had once been the idol of his youth, Danny said, "I loved to work with him. I had the feeling he was my close personal friend."

"The real truth is that everybody knows Bing, but no one knows him. Through the years he has created a legendary character that is so vivid, no one knows, where the legend begins and the real Crosby leaves off. I thought I knew Bing, thought I knew all, about him until we started to make, "White Christmas". Then I realized I actually didn't know the man at all.

PORTIONS OF "THE DANNY KAYE SAGA".....Continued

"For example everyone thinks of Bing as lazy. It's good to think of him as lazy. It makes a man feel good to say to himself:

"Well, all right, so I'm lazy. So is Bing Crosby - and look where he is today!"

"The truth of the matter is, there isn't a lazy bone in Bing's body. He works harder than any man I've met - but he does it with an easy casualness that makes him "look" lazy.

"Some of the routines Bing and I did were as tough as anything I've done ever. Not once, though, did I see him miss a rehearsal or say, 'Let's take a break!'

"Usually it was I who said, 'Man let's sit this one out for a while - I'm pooped!'

"But the strange thing is, no matter how strenuous the routine was, when Bing finally did it, it somehow had the feeling, that it was impromptu, that he could do routines like it, without rehearsing or working. He has one of the most amazing talents I've ever seen for making hard work look easy.

"Another portion of the Bing Crosby legend that was destroyed for me during the making of "White Christmas" was the belief I held that Bing was aloof and a guy who liked to be by himself. I guess the fact that he doesn't show up at most Hollywood parties and is hardly ever seen at the night-clubs has given rise to this part of the Crosby legend.

"To my surprise, I discovered him to be one of the most gregarious of individuals. He had dressing-room, but he only used it to change clothes. Between scenes, he likes to sit on the set with the rest of the guys and gals making the picture. Bing, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Ellen and I even got together a quartet. You should have heard us on radio commercials: 'Sooper Suds, Sooper Suds, lots more suds from Sooper Su-uds!'

"Yeah, I thought I knew all about Bing Crosby-until I got to know him. Now, I have to admit I've only scratched the surface of this remarkable personality."

Those who worked in the studio during the shooting of, "White Christmas" often left their posts to watch the clowning of the two men: Crosby of the quiet soft-spoken wit, and Kaye, the quick and explosive nimble-wit. They tell of an improvised take-off on "Take My Hand I'm A Stranger in Paradise," which the two sang as "Hold My Nose I'm A Stranger in Benzinhurst," with a Brooklyn accent.

And there was the old routine of boys imitating girls which in the hands of such experts was a chuckle producing act. With trousers rolled up above the obviously masculine and protruding knee-caps, with jewelled head-pieces reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties with ostrich fans swishing languorously they both emerged on the set singing in falsetto voices, "Lord help the mister who comes between me and my sister"-variations followed.

Bing hula-ed his hips adroitly. Kaye peeked coyly over the fan and sneezed from the feather dust. One convulsed cameraman wheeled, "If those two started dousing each other with soda-water, I bet someone would ask who wrote their great script!" (pages 168-170-)

Submitted by: Pat Sullivan

I would like to tell you about a hobby of mine in which some of the club members might be interested, especially if they love music like I do. I have typewritten in a book form the complete survey of "Your Hit Parade" over the past 15 years. Those who collect records old and new might be interested in buying one of these. Please write, Beryl Bauer - Rt. 2 Box 232 - Crescent City, California